

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): Particles comprising a core of calcium carbonate and a coating covering at least part of the surface of the core, said coating comprising at least two different coating ~~agent-s~~ agents which are applied in at least two distinct and consecutive steps,

wherein a first coating agent comprises at least one compound selected from the group consisting of alkylsulfates, sulfonic acids, carboxylic acids, their salts, their esters, fatty alcohols, polyhydric alcohols and mixtures thereof and is applied on at least part of the surface of the core in a first step to provide an intermediate product, and wherein a second coating agent comprises at least one compound selected from the group consisting of polyhydric alcohols, esters of carboxylic acids, and mixtures thereof and is applied on at least part of the surface of said intermediate product in a second step.

Claim 11 (Cancelled)

Claim 12 (Cancelled)

Claim 13 (Cancelled)

Claim 14 (Cancelled)

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of particles according to claim 10, in which ~~the~~ core particles of calcium carbonate are first brought into contact with a said first coating agent to provide coated particles and then a said second coating agent is applied to the coated particles.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 15 wherein the second coating agent is applied in liquid, dissolved, solid or gas form.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): A method of using the particles according to claim 10 as a filler, comprising adding said particles to a product selected from the group consisting of rubbers, inks, plastisols, sealants, papers, paints, coatings, pharmaceuticals, foods and cosmetics.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 17 wherein the filler is incorporated in a product ~~products~~ selected from the group consisting of rubbers, inks, plastisols, sealants, papers, paints, and coatings, ~~pharmaceuticals, foods and cosmetics.~~

Claim 19 (New): The particles of claim 10, wherein said first coating agent comprises a fatty acid and said second coating agent comprises at least one of a diol and a triol.

Claim 20 (New): The particles of claim 10, wherein said first coating agent comprises stearic acid and said second coating agent comprises at least one of 1,2-ethanediol and glycerol.

Claim 21 (New): The particles of claim 10, wherein said first coating agent comprises a fatty acid and said second coating agent comprises a phthalic acid ester.

Claim 22 (New): The particles of claim 10, wherein said first coating agent comprises stearic acid and said second coating agent comprises glycerol.

Claim 23 (New): The particles of claim 10, wherein the amount of the first coating agent is 1-5% by weight, and the amount of the second coating agent is 5-10% by weight.

Claim 24 (New): The particles of claim 22, wherein the amount of the first coating agent is 1-5% by weight, and the amount of the second coating agent is 5-10% by weight.